

Figure 37 has been corrected by adding reference character “524” and by adding a lead line for reference character “524” to the indicated positioning hole.

Figure 38 has been corrected by replacing the incorrect reference character “530” with correct reference character “528”.

It is believed that the informal substitute drawings now comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.84(p)(4) and 1.84(p)(5) and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

III. REPLY TO OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 8 AND 9

Claims 8 and 9 have been objected to as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any multiple dependent claim. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to remove dependency from any multiple dependent claim and have been amended to remove dependency from any rejected base claim. Applicant submits that dependent claims 8 and 9 are now in condition for allowance.

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) An electrical box mounting bracket comprising:

a first substantially flat and elongated top rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having a length, width and thickness;

a second substantially flat and elongated top rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having length, width and thickness dimensions substantially the same as the corresponding dimensions of the first top rail;

a first substantially flat and elongated midsection rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a length, a first end, and a second end;

a second substantially flat and elongated midsection rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a length, a first end, and a second end;

a first substantially flat and elongated bottom rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having a length, width and thickness;

a second substantially flat and elongated bottom rail having at least one longitudinal edge, a first end portion, a second end portion and having length, width and thickness dimensions substantially the same as the corresponding dimensions of the first bottom rail;

a first crosstie having a first end portion and a second end portion and having a thickness substantially the same as said top rails and a length less than half the length of the first top rail;

a second crosstie having a first end portion and a second end portion and having substantially the same dimensions as the first crosstie;

the first top rail and the first crosstie fixedly joined at their respective first end portions such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular;

the second top rail fixedly joined at its first end portion to the second end portion of said first crosstie such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular and such that the length dimensions of the first top rail and the second top rail extend in the same direction and are parallel, to form a substantially "U" shaped structure;

the first bottom rail and the second crosstie fixedly joined at their respective first end portions such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular;

the second bottom rail fixedly joined at its first end portion to the second end portion of said second crosstie such that their respective length dimensions are oriented substantially perpendicular and such that the length dimensions of the first bottom rail and

the second bottom rail extend in the same direction and are parallel, to form a substantially “U” shaped structure;

a channel formed along said at least one longitudinal edge of the first midsection rail extending from said first end to said second end;

a channel formed along said at least one longitudinal edge of the second midsection rail extending from said first end to said second end;

said at least one longitudinal edge of said first top rail slidably retained within said channel formed in the first midsection rail;

said at least one longitudinal edge of said second top rail slidably retained within said channel formed in the second midsection rail;

said at least one longitudinal edge of said first bottom rail slidably retained within said channel formed in the first midsection rail;

said at least one longitudinal edge of said second bottom rail slidably retained within said channel formed in the second midsection rail;

said first crosstie, first top rail, first midsection rail, first bottom rail, second crosstie, second bottom rail, second midsection rail, and second top rail defining a substantially rectangular aperture of variable size;

at least one hole formed at a predetermined location in each of said first and second top rails;

at least one hole formed at a predetermined location in each of said first and second midsection rails;

at least one hole formed at a predetermined location in each of said first and second bottom rails;

said at least one hole in said rails defining at least one mounting location for attaching an electrical connection box to the bracket;

said at least one hole in said rails adapted to align with a fastener hole of an electrical connection box placed at said at least one mounting location; and

said at least one hole in said rails adapted to accommodate a fastener for attaching an electrical box to said bracket.

6. (Currently Amended) The electrical box mounting bracket of ~~claim 2 or claim 5~~ wherein:

said bracket is continuously adjustable in length, to accommodate mounting between studs separated from about 16 inches to about 24 inches.

7. (Original) The electrical box mounting bracket of claim 5 further including:

at least one flat tab formed integrally with at least one of said first top rail or said first midsection rail;

said at least one flat tab extending in the width dimension of at least one of said first top rail in a direction from said first top rail toward said second top rail, and extending along a portion of the length of said first top rail, or said at least one flat tab extending in the width dimension of at least one of said first midsection rail in a direction from said first midsection rail toward said second midsection rail, and extending along a portion of the length of said first midsection rail;

at least one hole formed in said at least one flat tab adapted to align with at least one fastener hole of an electrical box;

whereby an electrical box may be attached to the bracket by means of a fastener installed through said at least one hole formed in said at least one flat tab and an aligned electrical box fastener hole.

8. (Currently Amended) The electrical box mounting bracket of ~~claim 4~~ or claim 7 further including:

an adjustment slot formed in said at least one hole formed in said at least one flat tab.

9. (Currently Amended) The electrical box mounting bracket of ~~claim 4~~, claim 7 or claim 8 wherein:

a said flat tab is adapted to be separated from a said rail along a score line.